

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council**

Minutes

June 12, 2006

4:00 P.M. ¡V 6:00 P.M.

Present from State Rehabilitation Council: Raymond Carroll, Domenic Di Orio, Robin Dolan, Judith L. Drew, Joseph Ferreira, Steven A. Florio, Anne LeClerc, Gary J. Levine, Lucille Massemينو, J. David Sienko

Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero

Call to Order and Introductions - The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

Old Business ¡V D. Sienko

1.Additions or deletions to the Agenda ¡V There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

A. LeClerc made a motion seconded by D. Di Orio and unanimously accepted, to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2006 meeting.

3. Policy Committee ¡V J. Ferreira

The committee met in May and the comments have been sent to the membership.

Three main points within the letter that the subcommittee felt important and are particularly concerned with; Career Ladder, Short-term Training, and Transportation.

New Business

1. C. Ellis has resigned from the Council due to other obligations.

2. Transportation subcommittee

The establishment of a Transportation ad hoc committee was agreed upon by the membership. A. LeClerc, N. Baker and J. Drew, who will chair the committee, are the current members on the committee. Any other members interested in joining please let J. Drew know.

Note

An important facet for all subcommittees to keep in mind is their make-up. They do not simply need to be filled with membership; they are open to anyone outside the Council who is interested and knowledgeable in that committee's work.

Who else can the SRC partner with to bring new people into the Council in a non-threatening way thus helping to create an incubator for new membership?

3. Strategic Planning jV D. Seinko

Over the summer the subcommittees should get together and figure out where we can begin our work. To assist with this review you have all received the Source Documents, which are the State Plan, the Needs Assessment, and summaries of the Standards and Indicators. Ask some key questions while doing these reviews. Is there information in those documents that relates to your subcommittee? If not, where can we get it? Once the subcommittees have met they might find that there is not enough information. Subcommittees may want additional information. They might want to invite ORS staff to some of their meetings for supplementary information and assistance.

By establishing a few goals for each subcommittee, we can measure our impact as a Council.

The charge to the subcommittees is to have ready for the fall meeting a few developed strategic goals. Then the Council can set up its Annual Actions based on those goals. Some key questions we will use to gauge these actions. How do we measure results? What would be the expected outcome?

This is result-orientated planning that will show that the means justify our time on the Council.

S. Brunero spoke to the Council about the Standards and Indicators. He explained their relevance to the work that ORS does and gave a summary on each one. There were questions asked, expressing the desire for further breakdown of the information for ORS and the Services for the Blind. It was felt that if the Council needed further breakdown of aggregate information, once the subcommittees had the summer to review the Source Documents, it could be discussed at a future meeting.

ORS Director's Report V R. Carroll

Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) Visit: At their visit last week we were informed that ORS is ahead of the curve in our education and tracking work with the SRC.

One week ago the SRC Executive committee met and J. Doney, from the RSA, sat in on that meeting. He will be the state liaison for the RSA. He has been on the job for thirty-six (36) days. He used to work for Goodwill Industries in New Jersey. He is the team leader assigned to Rhode Island. He will have a fiscal assistant who has been on the job for a few months. They are still recruiting for a data person. This is the new structural formula for the RSA.

R. Carroll explained to the Council that the technical assistance and monitoring from the RSA is now coming out of a central location. There are teams set up with each member taking different responsibilities.

This visit was the first since the RSA's restructuring; it was a face-to-face opportunity that will yield dividends for the future while moving the process forward.

The RSA is adopting a model that the Department of Education has been using for years. This model will make our State Plan more of a focal point.

Topics of Conversation with RSA

„X The Comprehensive needs assessment iV the SRC's steps to utilize this and the State Plan and Standards and Indicators to formulate an action plan, is moving forward in the right direction.

„X Underserved Populations ¡V is something the SRC needs to take a closer look at.

„X Outcomes for meaningful Career Opportunities ¡V the Standards and Indicators are an important tool for tracking this.

„X Secondary Education and Special Education ¡V Rhode Island is in the lead amongst its neighboring states.

On the last day they provided some preliminary findings and urged us to look at more data analysis at their web site. ORS is registered there but in the past we often had little time to look at the data. ORS is going to be setting some management time designed specifically to take a closer look at this data.

We expect a report from the RSA regarding their visit within thirty (30) days.

State Plan: In the past the Plan has been more generic, stressing streamlining and brevity. However, with the RSA changes we will need to provide much more details, goals, and priorities.

State Budget: The House Finance committee is meeting tomorrow night. We all know there are personnel reform and fiscal reductions in the budget proposal. We have already had unanticipated retirements, promotions of personnel to other offices, and there is a possibility of a hiring freeze. Therefore, we are concerned that future reductions are going to be difficult for the Agency to handle while

keeping up our performance standards. We also have people on family leave and others going out on family leave in the near future. These positions can't be backfilled so any additional cut will affect us.

Personnel: Two (2) retirements; R. Jobin a Rehabilitation Counselor, and R. Connor and Assistant Administrator, the ATAP Project Director, and the Transition Coordinator. With these two unexpected departures, ORS had twelve (12) vacancies and things are moving very slowly to fill them.

Rhode Island Employer Honor Roll: Mark your calendars for the Employer Honor Roll on October 27th at the Crowne plaza. This is our 10th Anniversary. We would like to see as many members as possible attend from the SRC.

Reauthorization Act: It appears the Act will not make it through Congress again this year but next year. This is the forth year of an annual update instead of reauthorization because the Congress has not been able to reach an agreement on the Act.

Employee Wellness: The State is putting in for a silver award, nationally, for ORS. S. Brunero has been the champion for all of the Department of Human Services in Rhode Island. It has been very time consuming and is a grand concept with limited resources, however through it all, he has managed to do an outstanding job.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment ¶ The meeting was adjourned at 6 P. M

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy L. Baker, Staff

State Rehabilitation Council